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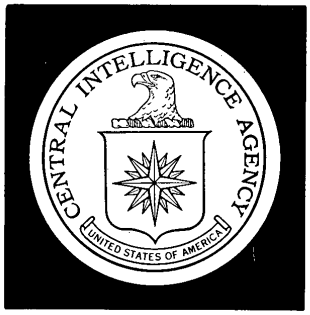

The President's Daily Brief

2 October 1970

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 50X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 October 1970

(information as of 2000 EDT 1 October)

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in the Middle East is discussed on *Page 1.*

The Poles [redacted] have stressed the negotiable nature of the Viet Cong's eight-point proposal. *(Page 3)* 50X1

Government forces continue to have little success in improving their tactical position in northern Laos. *(Page 4)*

In Chile, Allende's refusal to provide "democratic guarantees" foreshadows increased dissension at the Christian Democratic National Congress this weekend. *(Page 5)*

The Soviets have quickened the pace of the Four-Power talks on Berlin. *(Page 6)*

The leadership turnout at the National Day celebration in Peking provided additional indications of a rift in the ruling heirarchy. *(Page 6)*

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MIDDLE EAST

Jordanian Army officers and fedayeen have signed an agreement to end the fighting in the north. The agreement calls for forces already in the front line against Israel to remain there and for armored units of both sides to pull out of the Ramtha-Irbid-Jarash triangle. Armed fedayeen who wish to go to Syria are to be allowed to do so, and unarmed fedayeen are permitted to go south to Amman or other Jordanian towns. Jordanian armored units are to pull back two and one-half miles from either side of the main road from Syria to permit movement of fedayeen supplies. There was no fighting in the north yesterday.

Field Marshal Majali told Ambassador Brown yesterday that the back of the fedayeen movement was broken. He claimed that their recent experience had been so painful that the fedayeen--and their Syrian and Iraqi supporters--would hesitate before making trouble again. The army is trying to cooperate with the committee set up by the Cairo agreement, but if the fedayeen do not leave the cities willingly the army will remove them by force.

Majali's assessment of fedayeen morale is optimistic. 50X1

Amman was quiet yesterday, four days after the cease-fire. The fedayeen still occupy some areas--the area around the US Embassy still appears to be under their control--but Ambassador Brown noted after touring the capital yesterday that Amman's population is returning to normal civilian life.

(continued)

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Lebanese officials are increasingly concerned over disruption accompanying the mourning of Nasir's death. Three people were killed yesterday by stray shots fired in tribute to Nasir, several cars have been burned, and a supermarket has been bombed. The embassy has taken precautions against possible mob action near the chancery, but so far the violence has not been directed at specific targets.

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VIETNAM

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the Viet Cong's eight-point proposal is "flexible" is matched by a similar soft line from Polish officials in Warsaw. The Poles, in conversations with visiting US congressmen and with Ambassador Stoessel, stressed the "negotiable" nature of the proposals and claimed the Communists are now willing to come to grips with "certain realities" in South Vietnam.

Although the Poles have their moments of unfounded optimism, the similarity of their recent approaches to that of Xuan Thuy suggests something new is in the wind. It seems likely in any case that the Communists are ready and willing to renew private talks with the US, and possibly to soften their refusal to deal directly with the Saigon government. In short, Hanoi may be angling for better ways to attack its old problems: getting the US out of Vietnam, and getting a solid stake in the South.

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LAOS

The government's drive to take Ban Na appears to have been turned back again, and the parallel push toward Muong Pot, six miles to the east, is making little headway. On the western edge of the Plaine des Jarres, a 1,200-man irregular force is stalled on the outskirts of Muong Soui. A new operation to the east of the Plaine has had some success in harassing enemy movements on Route 4, the road that runs south from the Plaine to the Mekong, and in destroying small ammunition caches.

An intercept of 29 September indicated that a subordinate of the NVA 238th SAM Regiment was located near the junction of Routes 911 and 912, about 20 miles inside Laos from the North Vietnamese border. It is not certain whether this unit's mission is to fire antiaircraft artillery or missiles. If it is the latter, it would be the first deployment of SAMs into the panhandle and indicative of North Vietnam's heightened concern with the security of its Laotian supply lines.

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CHILE

Salvador Allende has, as anticipated, refused to provide the "democratic guarantees" requested by the Christian Democrats. The Christian Democratic Party Council announced on 30 September that Allende's response was "unsatisfactory" and that the guarantees now must be incorporated into the constitution by legislative action. This position is probably not acceptable to the party's left wing, and its publication increases the likelihood of a divisive struggle at the Party National Congress this weekend. [redacted] A formal statement by the country's Roman Catholic bishops in effect counseling Christian acquiescence in Allende's victory in the popular elections last month helps to strengthen Allende's position.

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In the economic field, French and British interests have signaled--probably with their government's approval--their intention to conduct business under Allende. Without waiting for the congressional runoff, two French automotive firms will go ahead with a $2.2 million investment in a new assembly plant, and British banking interests will proceed with a $10 million loan for suppliers' credits to the Chilean Government development corporation.

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NOTES

Cuba: A U-2 mission was flown over Cuba on 30 September. There were no significant changes noted. The next mission is scheduled for 2 October.

USSR-Berlin: The Soviets have quickened the pace of the Four-Power talks on Berlin. Western ambassadors agreed Wednesday to Soviet proposals to meet on 9 rather than 30 October and to hold a working level meeting prior to the ambassadorial session. Although there was no substantive progress Wednesday, the Soviets simplified their list of demands which previously had been so wide-ranging as to be unnegotiable. Moscow appears sensitive to being blamed for delaying the talks and eager to begin real bargaining.

Communist China: Hsieh Fu-chih, public security minister and boss of the Peking municipal government, and Ch'en Po-ta, politburo standing committee member and Mao's personal secretary, did not appear at the National Day celebrations in Peking yesterday. Because of his close association with Mao, it is unlikely that Ch'en is out of favor, but Hsieh, who also is a politburo member, has been absent from public view since last March and probably has been purged. The regime, however, has been careful not to reveal any shifts in the power structure. In the past year, for example, the press has listed leaders attending major events in the Chinese equivalent of alphabetical order rather than by rank. This could be an attempt to disguise the continual maneuvering for position at top levels.

Cambodia: Military activity, consisting mainly of Communist harassing actions, remains at a low level.

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